

CLAIMS

1. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions for processing print data, the processor-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

- 5 filtering the print data to create grouped records;
 analyzing the grouped records to extract templates used by the grouped records; and
 merging the extracted templates to produce a merged template.

10 2. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, additionally comprising instructions for:

 creating a cover template for use with a document to be printed, wherein the cover template is merged with the extracted templates into the merged template.

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3. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, additionally comprising instructions for:

- adding records to the merged template;
 calculating an imposition for application to the merged template to
20 which the records were added; and
 generating a ticket describing the merged template to which the records were added, and generating pointers to assets used by the merged template.

4. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 3, wherein analyzing the grouped records comprises instructions for:

extracting information from the grouped records; and

5 using the extracted information to determine which data, from among the print data, will be needed to complete the adding records to the merged template.

5. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 3, wherein calculating an imposition for application to the merged template comprises
10 instructions for:

modifying the merged template to purge features that are not compatible with an output device to be used.

6. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein
15 filtering print data to create grouped records comprises instructions for:

grouping together like-sized material to form the grouped records; and

selecting from among the grouped records for fit on print media.

7. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein
20 filtering print data to create grouped records comprises instructions for:

grouping together material according to commercial use.

8. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein filtering print data to create grouped records comprises instructions for:

25 grouping together material according to printer destination.

9. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein analyzing the grouped records comprises instructions for:

extracting meta data from the grouped records; and

using the meta data to determine templates used by the grouped records.

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10. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein analyzing the grouped records comprises instructions for:

extracting information from the grouped records; and

using the extracted information to locate templates, field descriptors and

10 fonts used by the grouped records.

11. The processor-readable medium as recited in claim 1, wherein merging the extracted templates comprises instructions for:

merging all features of the extracted templates into the merged template.

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12. A system, comprising:

a filter to filter print data to create grouped records;

an analyzer to analyze the grouped records to extract templates used by the grouped records; and

20 a template merger to merge the extracted templates to produce a merged template.

13. The system of claim 12, additionally comprising:

a cover generator to create a cover template for use with a document to

25 be printed, wherein the cover template is merged with the extracted templates.

14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the template merger is configured to merge all features of the extracted templates and the cover template into the merged template.

5 15. The system of claim 12, additionally comprising:
a record adder to add records to the merged template;
a imposition controller to calculate an imposition for application to the merged template to which the records were added; and
a ticket generator to create a ticket describing the merged template to
10 which the records were added and to create pointers to assets used by the merged template.

16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the analyzer is configured to extract information from the grouped records and use the
15 extracted information to determine which data, from among the print data, will be needed by the record adder when adding records to the merged template.

17. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein the imposition controller modifies the merged template to purge features that are not
20 compatible with an output device to be used.

18. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the filter is configured to group together like-sized material and select a plurality of the like-sized material according to fit on print media.

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19. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the filter is configured to group together material according to commercial use.

20. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the filter is configured to group together material according to printer destination.

21. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the analyzer is configured to extract meta data from the grouped records and use the meta data to determine templates used by the grouped records.

22. The system as recited in claim 12, wherein the analyzer is configured to extract information from the grouped records and use the extracted information to locate templates, field descriptors and fonts used by the grouped records.

23. A variable data print engine, comprising:
means for filtering print data to create grouped records;
means for analyzing the grouped records to extract templates used by the grouped records; and

means for merging the extracted templates to produce a merged template having features of all of the extracted templates.

24. The variable data print engine as recited in claim 23, additionally comprising:

means for creating a cover template for use with a document to be printed, wherein the cover template is merged with the extracted templates.

25. The variable data print engine as recited in claim 23, additionally comprising:

means for adding records to the merged template;

5 means for calculating an imposition for application to the merged template to which the records were added; and

means for generating a ticket describing the merged template to which the records were added, wherein the ticket includes pointers to assets used by the merged template.

10 26. The variable data print engine as recited in claim 23, wherein the means for filtering print data comprises:

a filter configured to filter data obtained from enterprise resource planning software.

15 27. The variable data print engine as recited in claim 23, wherein the means for analyzing the grouped records comprises:

an analyzer configured to extract meta data from the grouped records and use the extracted meta data to locate templates, field descriptors and fonts used by the grouped records.

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28. The variable data print engine as recited in claim 23, wherein means for analyzing the grouped records comprises:

an analyzer to extracting information from the grouped records and to use the extracted information to determine which data, from among the print data, will be needed to complete the adding records to the merged template.

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29. The variable data print engine as recited in claim 23, wherein means for merging the extracted templates comprises:

a template merger configured to merge all features of the extracted templates into the merged template.

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30. A method for processing print data, the method comprising:

filtering the print data to create grouped records;

analyzing the grouped records to extract templates used by the grouped records; and

10 merging the extracted templates to produce a merged template.

31. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein filtering print data to create grouped records comprises:

filtering data obtained from enterprise resource planning software.

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32. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein analyzing the grouped records comprises:

extracting meta data from the grouped records; and

using the extracted meta data to locate templates, field descriptors and

20 fonts used by the grouped records.

33. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein analyzing the grouped records comprises:

extracting information from the grouped records; and

25 using the extracted information to determine which data, from among the print data, will be needed to complete the adding records to the merged template.

34. The method as recited in claim 30, wherein merging the extracted templates comprises:

merging all features of the extracted templates and a cover template into
5 the merged template.

35. The method as recited in claim 30, additionally comprising:

calculating an imposition for application to the merged template by
modifying the merged template to purge features that are not compatible with
10 an output device to be used.